

Remarks:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated January 11, 2006, Applicants have made the required corrections to claims 1, 8, 12, and 34. In claims 1 and 12, the phrase "at a nano-level" has been completely stricken from the claims. This phrase was previously deleted in the Amendment filed June 7, 2005. The status identifier of claim 8 has been changed to "Previously Presented" and the "the" stricken as was done in the June 7, 2005, Amendment. Claim 34 has been changed to remove the "the" and the status identifier changed to "Previously Presented." The remainder of the Non-Compliant Amendment filed October 17, 2005, is reproduced below.

Claims 1-21, 30-37, and 45 remain for consideration in this application. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks hereunder, the rejections of the last office action are respectfully traversed.

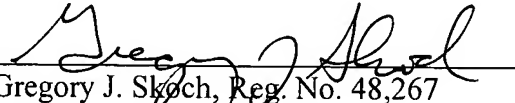
In the last Action, claims were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph. Applicant was unclear about the exact nature of the rejection, and accordingly the Applicant's representative met with the Examiner to review the case. At that interview, claim changes were discussed and specific amendments were agreed upon in claims 1 and 45. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the use of the term "crystallites" within the nanocrystalline matrix referred to in the claims. Accordingly, that language has been removed from independent product claims 1, 12 and 30, and also from independent method claim 45.

This application should now be in full condition for allowance, inasmuch as only Section 112 rejections were lodged in the last Action.

Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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